

Remarks

Claims 22-25, 28-31 and 33-38 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 33 is allowed and that claims 36 and 37 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the claim as previously presented and should now be allowed. Claim 37 depends from claim 36 and also should be allowed.

By this Amendment, dependent claims 22-25, 28-31, 34, 35, and 38 now depend from independent claim 33. Thus, claims 22-25, 28-31, 34, 35, and 38 also should be allowed.

Claims 21-24, 28-31, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 2,628,179 to Bergstein (Bergstein) and U.S. Patent No. 6,422,283 to Okushita et al. (Okushita). Claims 25 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Bergstein, Okushita, and European Patent Application No. EP 776,848 A2 to Johnson. Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Bergstein, Okushita, and US Patent No. 3,729,648 to Kerr. Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Bergstein, Okushita, and US Patent No. 1,843,429 to Marcalus. Applicants traverse the rejections of the claims. Independent claim 21 and dependent claim 32 have been canceled to expedite prosecution of the application. Dependent claims 22-25, 28-31, 34, 35 and 38 now depend from allowable claim 33. Thus, the rejections of the claims should be withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application to pursue the rejected claims.

The present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any further issues remain concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to discuss such matters.

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